

Agenda Item: I.A.7.

DATE: January 26, 2006

SUBJECT: East Tennessee State University, Master of Science in Allied Health

ACTION RECOMMENDED: Approval

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: The purpose of the proposed program is to address the growing shortage of qualified allied health educators and administrators. Allied health professionals seeking advancement into academic, health care management and administrative positions need graduate level preparation in their discipline. Nationally, there are very few graduate level allied health programs available. The six goals of the proposed program are to prepare graduates in allied health are practitioners trained to work in the health care environment:

1. To analyze, interpret, and respond to the major factors influencing health care;
2. To function in a professional manner as a member and representative a health care team;
3. To have a basic understanding of administration/management skills as related to their discipline;
4. To function as educators in the academic, clinical, and community settings;
5. To be critical thinkers able to analyze concepts, principles, research, and clinical findings, technologies, and outcomes and apply them to the professional practice as appropriate; and
6. To advance in the health professionals.

PROPOSED START-UP DATE: Fall 2006

Commission staff has reviewed program proposals according to the academic standards adopted by the Commission on November 14, 2002. Each standard is referenced below.

1.1.20A MISSION: The proposed program is consistent with the mission of the institution to serve the state, region and nation. The Division of Health Care, composed of the Colleges of Medicine, Nursing, and Public and Allied Health, serves the state, region and nation as a comprehensive academic health services center.

1.1.20B CURRICULUM: The curriculum for the proposed program requires completion of 36 semester hours. The program is designed to build on and be supported by the comprehensive educational base of the various allied health programs at ETSU. Thirteen new courses are required to implement the program at the graduate level. In addition to the traditional classrooms, the

proposed program will appeal particularly to working professionals in-state and out-of state due to being offered in an on-line format.

<u>Course Name</u>	<u>Credit Hours</u>
Major Field Core	18
Electives	12
Thesis/Non-thesis option	6

1.1.20C ACADEMIC STANDARDS: Students admitted to the program must meet all requirements as established by the School of Graduate Studies at ETSU. They must also meet the following program requirements:

- Bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited institution
- Hold a professional license in an allied health discipline
- Complete the GRE
- Have a cumulative GPA of 2.75 or higher on a 4.0 scale.
- Three letters of recommendation

Projected Program Productivity

Student Projections	Full-time Enrollment	Part-time	Graduates
Year 1	5	10	0
Year 2	10	20	4
Year 3	15	25	12
Year 4	15	25	14
Year 5	15	25	16

1.1.20D FACULTY: There is a critical mass of faculty with the Department of Allied Health. Approximately ten have been identified to be involved with the proposed on-line program.

1.1.20E LIBRARY RESOURCES: Additional library resources in related allied health fields required to implement the proposed program will be acquired through revenue generated by student tuition. Electronic library access also will be available.

1.1.20F ADMINISTRATION/ORGANIZATION: The proposed program will be housed in the Division of Health Science, Department of Allied Health, coordinated by the Chair of Allied Health.

1.1.20G SUPPORT RESOURCES: Faculty within the Department of Allied will contribute to teaching the courses. ETSU also has an instructional media unit that trains and assists faculty with on-line course development and delivery.

1.1.20H FACILITIES/INSTRUCTIONAL EQUIPMENT: Course offerings to traditional graduate students will be available in current classrooms in the

Department of Allied Health Sciences. The department has adequate classroom space and instructional equipment to support the proposed MSAH program.

1.1.20I STUDENT/EMPLOYER DEMANDS: In a recent survey conducted by ETSU of allied health educators, twenty-eight (43%) indicated their educational level at the associate or baccalaureate degree level. Thirty-four (52%) expressed an interest in pursuing a MSAH, and 75 percent were interested in the on-line option. A recent student survey conducted by the Department of Allied Health Sciences noted plans to continue their education within the next three to five years. A majority were interested in the MSAH (72%) and 84 percent expressed interest in the on-line option. Graduates of MSAH programs work primarily as faculty within their respective professions or as administrators and managers within their health profession.

1.1.20J NO UNNECESSARY DUPLICATION: There are no other Masters of Allied Health programs offered in the state.

1.1.20K COOPERATIVE INSTITUTIONS: None indicated.

1.1.20L DESEGREGATION: The program will not impede the state's effort to achieve racial diversity.

1.1.20M ASSESSMENT/EVALUATION AND ACCREDITATION: Undergraduate allied health programs in cardiopulmonary science, dental hygiene, and radiography are fully accredited by their respective professional agencies. There is no specialized accreditation for Allied Health. There are also no SACS implications.

The Department of Allied Health Sciences continually evaluates the effectiveness of the instructional programs. Efforts are taken to evaluate the success of programs by utilizing internal and external assessment tools to provide sufficient qualitative and quantitative information to ensure that program goals and objectives are achieved. Some of the outcome measures used include: placement profiles on graduates, graduating students, and alumni and employer satisfaction surveys.

1.1.20N ARTICULATION: N/A

1.1.20O EXTERNAL JUDGMENT (Graduate Programs): Dr. Thomas Robinson, Professor at the University of Kentucky, Lexington served as consultant to provide the expert external review. Dr. Robinson provided a thorough assessment of the proposed program, the faculty, and on-line capacities. He was extremely supportive of the preparations that the Department of Allied Health Sciences put into the proposal development and considered ETSU's readiness to implement the program. He also was complementary of the on-line option available to reach more professionals seeking graduate opportunities for career advancement.

1.1.20P COST/BENEFIT/SOURCE: The implementation of the proposed program will have an immediate impact on the shortage of educators and administrators in the allied health professions. Allied Health professionals make up approximately 2/3 of a health care team. Opportunities for training educators and administrators are limited; therefore the pool of professionals with appropriate credentials is small. Minimum associated costs will be addressed through tuition and on-line access fees.

Financial Projections	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
1. Expenditures					
A. One – time:					
New/renovated space					
Equipment					
Library					
Consultants					
Other					
Total for One-time Expenditures	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
B. Recurring:					
Administration					
Faculty					
Staff			\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000
Benefits					
Equipment			\$ 9,000	\$9,000	\$9,000
Library					
Travel	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000
Other (Operating) (Accreditation)					
Total for Recurring Expenditures	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$60,000	\$ 60,000	\$60,000
TOTAL (A + B)	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$60,000
2. Revenues					
State appropriations (new, FTE)					
*State appropriations (old)					
Tuition/Fees	\$20,185	\$36,365	\$52,545	\$56,550	\$60,555
Institutional Resources					
Grants/Contracts					
Gifts (\$209,000)					
Other (in-kind donations, etc.)					
TOTAL REVENUES	\$20,185	\$36,365	\$52,545	\$56,550	\$60,555

1.1.30 POST APPROVAL MONITORING: An annual performance review of the proposed program will be conducted for the first five years following approval. The review will be based on goals established in the approved program proposal. At the end of this period, campus, governing board, and Commission staff will perform a summative evaluation. These goals include, but are not limited to enrollment and graduation numbers, program costs, progress toward accreditation, library acquisitions, student performance and other goals set by the institution and agreed upon by governing board and Commission staff. As a result of this evaluation, if the program is found to be deficient, the Commission may recommend that the governing board terminate the program. Copies of such recommendation will be forwarded to the

Education Committees of the General Assembly. The Commission may also choose to extend this period if additional time is needed and requested by the governing board.